news

FOR RELEASE:
Oct. 29, 1979

Building
Permits

P-21 No. 5

BUILDING PERMITS IN 200 LARGEST CITIES CLIMB HIGHEST IN ELEVEN MONTHS

NEW YORK, October 27 -- Erasing the previous month's dip, building permits issued in the 200 largest U.S. cities climbed 13.3 per cent in May to $2,777,967,467, the largest volume in eleven months, reports Dun & Bradstreet. Up from $2,451,179,009 in April, permit issuances topped by a widening margin their comparable 1978 level, running 27.2 per cent above the $2,184,409,484 in May a year ago.

Builders in the 199 cities outside New York were issued permits totalling $2,710,563,973, some 14.8 per cent more than the $2,360,431,882 in the previous month and the second largest amount on record. New Orleans and Chicago contributed a big lift to the May permits. Compared with last year, permit volume in the 199 cities ran a robust 26.5 per cent ahead of the $2,142,407,699 issued in May a year earlier.

A contrary trend took place in New York City where builders filed plans valued at $67,403,494, one fourth less than the nine-month peak of $90,747,127 established in April. Still, New York's filings bulked more than half again as heavy as the $42,001,785 in the like month last year.

Building permit issuances in the 200 cities during the first five months of 1979 came to $11,170,653,404, rising 18.1 per cent from the $9,457,274,892 reported in the similar period of 1978. This represented the strongest year-to-year headway so far in '79. The steepest percentage climbs from a year-earlier occurred in Boston and Honolulu. In aggregate dollar amounts, Houston, Los Angeles, Dallas and Phoenix maintained the top four rankings while Chicago pushed into fifth place.

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2. MAY BUILDING PERMIT VALUES

MONTHLY TOTAL OF BUILDING PERMITS IN 200 LARGEST CITIES
1976 - 1979

	1979	1978	1977	1976
January.....	$ 1,746,778,126	$ 1,555,200,317	$ 1,155,317,475	$ 1,094,555,899
February.....	1,717,789,184	1,566,122,444	1,346,506,159	1,017,644,026
March.....	2,476,939,618	2,181,040,038	1,831,077,441	1,298,836,652
April.....	2,451,179,009	1,970,502,609	1,670,684,353	1,418,036,240
May.....	2,777,967,467	2,184,409,484	1,848,109,958	1,359,299,738
June.....		3,175,380,926	2,112,508,861	1,513,262,913
July.....		2,374,622,719	1,786,583,619	1,391,463,324
August.....		2,096,290,105	1,983,733,131	1,622,806,467
September....		2,197,718,509	1,720,913,053	1,456,079,039
October.....		2,305,383,414	1,802,807,510	1,311,459,333
November.....		2,050,242,106	1,827,177,094	1,327,938,877
December.....		1,809,134,416	1,908,713,368	1,387,900,565
Total.....	$	$25,466,047,087	$20,994,132,022	$16,199,283,073

R = Revised

Of the 200 cities included in this series the twenty-five with the largest building permit values for the first five months of 1979 were:

(Millions of Dollars)

		Five Months 1979	% Change Previous Year
1.	Houston, Texas.....	1000.0	+ 49.8
2.	Los Angeles, California.....	634.5	+ 29.1
3.	Dallas, Texas.....	424.2	+ 22.9
4.	Phoenix, Arizona.....	293.3	+ 24.3
5.	Chicago, Illinois.....	286.7	+ 55.2
6.	New York, New York.....	258.6	+ 44.4
7.	San Diego, California.....	256.9	+ 3.7
8.	Honolulu, Hawaii.....	197.4	+ 70.2
9.	Austin, Texas.....	194.3	+ 33.1
10.	Atlanta, Georgia.....	176.2	+ 56.1
11.	Seattle, Washington.....	156.4	+ 44.6
12.	San Jose, California.....	156.1	+ 24.6
13.	San Antonio, Texas.....	149.2	+ 36.7
14.	New Orleans, Louisiana.....	147.4	+ 42.0
15.	Columbus, Ohio.....	138.0	- 47.5
16.	Boston, Massachusetts.....	128.2	+ 76.9
17.	Indianapolis, Indiana.....	126.6	+ 32.8
18.	Denver, Colorado.....	125.8	+ 21.3
19.	Washington, D. C.....	122.7	+ 64.1
20.	Albuquerque, New Mexico.....	121.4	+ 5.1
21.	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.....	117.3	- 10.4
22.	Sacramento, California.....	114.9	+ 30.3
23.	Minneapolis, Minnesota.....	111.4	+ 124.5
24.	San Francisco, California....	110.3	- 18.9
25.	Tulsa, Oklahoma.....	107.1	- 43.2

THE FOLLOWING TABLE GIVES MONTHLY BUILDING PERMIT VALUES FOR THE 200 LARGEST CITIES BY POPULATION AS RECORDED IN THE 1970 CENSUS. THE FIGURES REPRESENT ESTIMATED BUILDING COSTS UNDER PERMITS ISSUED TO PROSPECTIVE BUILDERS WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITIES ENUMERATED. THEY INCLUDE NEW RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS, AS WELL AS ADDITIONS, ALTERATIONS AND REPAIRS. LAND COSTS ARE NOT INCLUDED. THE DATA ARE COMPILED FROM REPORTS FURNISHED TO DUN & BRADSTREET BY THE BUILDING DEPARTMENTS OF THE VARIOUS CITIES.

RANK BY SIZE		MAY 1979	FIVE MONTHS 1979	FIVE MONTHS 1978
1.	NEW YORK, NEW YORK*			
	MANHATTAN	34,037,900	122,702,295	81,349,200
	BRONX	5,176,518	10,611,168	10,119,260
	BROOKLYN	10,238,900	30,521,160	39,572,870
	QUEENS	6,877,700	45,286,460	15,980,328
	RICHMOND	11,072,476	49,519,941	32,356,201
	TOTAL NEW YORK CITY	67,403,494	258,641,024	179,137,859
2.	CHICAGO, ILLINOIS	110,799,447	286,680,078	184,716,432
3.	LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA	160,776,387	634,537,083	491,327,008
4.	PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA	17,246,157	69,788,361	69,761,796
5.	DETROIT, MICHIGAN	20,317,061	82,775,868	61,226,175
6.	HOUSTON, TEXAS	226,440,522	1,000,004,714	667,358,596
7.	BALTIMORE, MARYLAND	14,117,487	54,602,443	97,191,442
8.	DALLAS, TEXAS	74,595,481	424,165,046	345,184,247
9.	WASHINGTON, D. C.	39,229,735	122,716,125	74,756,885
10.	CLEVELAND, OHIO	4,452,935	47,569,337	27,567,971
11.	INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA	32,753,743	126,603,337	95,331,944
12.	MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN	33,796,489	61,015,564	64,236,370
13.	SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA	25,520,514	110,336,305	136,050,718
14.	SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA	54,803,172	256,944,704	247,761,525
15.	SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS	27,754,034	149,240,470	109,138,413
16.	BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS	31,966,000	128,175,637	72,473,400
17.	MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE	25,816,837	72,794,544	67,364,565
18.	ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI	14,262,872	32,239,623	41,284,674
19.	NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA	88,080,789	147,432,474	103,849,253
20.	PHOENIX, ARIZONA	58,969,389	293,290,727	235,963,400
21.	COLUMBUS, OHIO	31,915,745	138,014,194	262,995,201
22.	SEATTLE, WASHINGTON	51,510,221	156,402,935	108,192,680
23.	JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA	15,621,269	80,392,183	107,736,124
24.	PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA	7,045,523	51,286,909	27,648,175
25.	DENVER, COLORADO	30,818,096	125,783,725	103,676,133
26.	KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI	19,533,764	64,398,107	85,296,623
27.	ATLANTA, GEORGIA	42,459,866	178,163,020	112,845,455
28.	BUFFALO, NEW YORK	2,695,041	11,799,109	8,986,281
29.	CINCINNATI, OHIO	24,423,691	63,197,377	57,447,349
30.	NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE	33,955,894	94,967,197	87,821,197
31.	SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA	39,445,142	156,057,611	125,284,315
32.	MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA	8,710,064	111,409,193	49,633,835
33.	FORT WORTH, TEXAS	123,404,768	105,058,998	101,363,972
34.	TOLEDO, OHIO	14,269,362	47,987,603	36,826,617
35.	PORTLAND, OREGON	21,063,560	105,213,856	94,956,715
36.	NEWARK, NEW JERSEY	1,560,880	13,612,290	4,135,222
37.	OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA	22,698,293	117,287,701	130,838,857
38.	OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA	6,239,617	35,805,403	65,914,478
39.	LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY	1,984,865	13,014,948	15,729,569
40.	LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA	7,946,525	41,576,267	34,071,665
41.	OMAHA, NEBRASKA	9,986,405	57,338,259	38,772,183
42.	MIAMI, FLORIDA	10,861,015	67,586,034	33,657,619
43.	TULSA, OKLAHOMA	30,724,800	107,123,750	188,722,927
44.	HONOLULU, HAWAII	46,728,442	197,386,829	115,958,671
45.	EL PASO, TEXAS	24,209,685	93,577,044	103,337,271
46.	ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA	12,044,270	39,449,824	52,518,669
47.	NORFOLK, VIRGINIA	7,426,364	20,481,118	21,437,984
48.	BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA	15,975,851	45,750,881	45,401,075
49.	ROCHESTER, NEW YORK	3,483,689	10,270,521	16,860,600
50.	TAMPA, FLORIDA	8,128,537	36,122,513	29,280,460
51.	WICHITA, KANSAS	21,009,365	75,014,882	43,385,334
52.	AKRON, OHIO	4,069,382	15,703,836	17,674,548
53.	TUCSON, ARIZONA	24,656,834	86,370,875	52,839,908
54.	JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY	1,817,945	9,028,856	2,440,650
55.	SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA	20,663,783	114,894,503	88,159,149
56.	AUSTIN, TEXAS	34,995,443	194,326,320	145,965,232
57.	RICHMOND, VIRGINIA	1,644,911	20,511,842	20,002,153
58.	ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO	36,660,337	121,446,000	115,582,009
59.	DAYTON, OHIO	13,287,332	42,269,310	12,908,978
60.	CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA	12,086,763	52,124,895	61,901,799
61.	ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA	6,562,618	41,823,703	32,086,545
62.	CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS	18,192,628	77,153,113	55,557,854
63.	YONKERS, NEW YORK	572,654	7,315,723	3,410,450
64.	DES MOINES, IOWA	4,748,587	26,089,984	22,940,027
65.	GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN	3,740,018	17,493,328	13,791,386
66.	SYRACUSE, NEW YORK	26,945,418	35,729,933	9,952,133
67.	FLINT, MICHIGAN	2,508,166	17,653,238	23,151,103
68.	MOBILE, ALABAMA	13,771,529	38,554,191	35,851,838
69.	SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA	15,196,544	48,868,079	44,554,472
70.	WARREN, MICHIGAN	569,112	2,754,911	5,540,315
71.	PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND	2,173,475	13,504,975	15,235,150
72.	FORT WAYNE, INDIANA	6,740,199	24,597,755	47,780,622
73.	WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS	750,502	6,091,019	6,958,157
74.	SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH	16,733,216	54,757,003	41,744,111
75.	GARY, INDIANA	830,997	10,014,780	4,822,530
76.	KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE	5,094,803	34,812,384	71,257,999
77.	MADISON, WISCONSIN	5,909,162	28,612,204	27,428,680
78.	VIRGINIA BEACH, VIRGINIA	20,282,510	103,113,156	124,634,963
79.	SPOKANE, WASHINGTON	10,315,382	37,629,896	46,916,447
80.	KANSAS CITY, KANSAS	5,191,382	24,454,070	25,902,800
81.	ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA	10,238,232	44,199,132	70,282,259
82.	FRESNO, CALIFORNIA	11,703,847	92,476,035	74,777,858
83.	BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA	16,007,955	60,704,401	67,220,052
84.	SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS	4,720,687	19,105,348	8,676,847
85.	HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT	6,541,260	23,235,518	12,947,701
86.	SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA	4,212,411	30,547,901	37,400,199
87.	BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT	1,057,389	7,766,042	5,275,421
88.	TACOMA, WASHINGTON	9,320,969	43,757,106	29,982,588
89.	COLUMBUS, GEORGIA	4,518,069	23,267,982	30,077,869
90.	JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI	6,996,278	30,385,640	31,047,877
91.	LINCOLN, NEBRASKA	13,978,775	28,795,994	23,243,953
92.	LUBBOCK, TEXAS	7,284,931	42,816,649	51,176,053
93.	ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS	5,971,861	16,562,873	15,916,842
94.	PATERSON, NEW JERSEY	741,889	7,163,893	4,837,902
95.	GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA	5,580,959	21,536,496	35,369,553
96.	RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA	11,149,179	30,739,129	14,572,360
97.	YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO	880,866	1,922,058	6,443,229
98.	FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA	28,222,170	47,194,245	22,984,813
99.	EVANSVILLE, INDIANA	1,645,863	8,936,996	14,250,263
100.	NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA	2,620,575	19,994,281	19,676,464
101.	HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA	5,637,833	24,827,004	28,001,346
102.	NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT	597,625	4,613,847	7,571,674
103.	COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO	20,430,350	84,160,145	104,750,442
104.	TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA	4,493,300	13,677,575	15,534,615
105.	MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA	11,225,000	42,550,600	16,813,500
106.	WINSTON-SALEM, NO. CAR.	4,385,934	24,512,449	18,481,193
107.	GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA	5,972,022	45,470,791	20,394,030
108.	LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS	4,611,390	26,920,419	41,118,475
109.	LANSING, MICHIGAN	2,742,357	33,802,614	10,486,891
110.	ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA	600,695	10,949,500	7,996,100
111.	AMARILLO, TEXAS	12,881,666	36,373,498	61,629,861
112.	PEORIA, ILLINOIS	8,196,660	24,427,597	22,586,075
113.	LAS VEGAS, NEVADA	32,846,685	93,675,798	69,064,155
114.	SOUTH BEND, INDIANA	3,914,529	22,027,344	9,309,254
115.	TOPEKA, KANSAS	2,179,646	15,750,954	14,598,702
116.	GARDEN GROVE, CALIFORNIA	5,058,368	21,557,882	23,479,784
117.	MACON, GEORGIA	4,621,044	29,481,196	16,583,947
118.	RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA	12,795,954	51,590,205	34,016,145
119.	HAMPTON, VIRGINIA	2,172,998	11,793,676	20,040,268
120.	SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI	4,285,638	30,528,896	31,941,355
121.	CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE	11,065,581	28,068,801	37,460,154
122.	SAVANNAH, GEORGIA	3,703,480	16,612,080	5,226,358
123.	BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA	2,176,366	8,784,888	5,449,201
124.	HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIF	7,035,611	32,237,467	61,195,097
125.	BEAUMONT, TEXAS	4,752,087	34,264,252	31,201,769
126.	ALBANY, NEW YORK	2,739,011	5,959,164	6,227,445
127.	COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA	748,886	9,320,046	18,202,027
128.	PASADENA, CALIFORNIA	3,925,329	24,650,140	25,051,014
129.	ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY	368,750	2,273,195	2,932,617
130.	INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI	3,732,646	15,266,097	10,083,873
131.	PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA	2,655,250	11,624,884	8,467,764
132.	ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA	15,756,446	32,817,526	23,309,055
133.	CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA	7,533,284	25,396,375	25,796,566
134.	LIVONIA, MICHIGAN	8,442,972	26,590,877	25,752,267
135.	CANTON, OHIO	1,219,418	15,506,768	11,479,634
136.	ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA	3,134,937	8,284,097	10,159,931
137.	STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT	17,336,618	100,791,892	22,842,573
138.	LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY	19,366,755	55,513,377	53,684,282
139.	WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT	1,364,485	3,754,149	1,803,306
140.	HAMMOND, INDIANA	1,079,929	17,053,425	2,835,805
141.	STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA	12,348,935	58,259,345	55,509,118
142.	HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA	3,822,881	19,390,947	30,457,922
143.	TRENTON, NEW JERSEY	488,731	2,114,339	2,185,131
144.	SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF	9,852,956	31,421,071	27,350,384
145.	DEARBORN, MICHIGAN	15,686,532	63,816,792	10,816,471
146.	SCRANTON, PENNSYLVANIA	166,192	2,848,705	7,851,257
147.	CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY	61,580	1,619,061	1,323,454
148.	HIALEAH, FLORIDA	1,885,367	27,213,415	6,947,696
149.	NEW BEDFORD, MASS	968,674	5,068,404	3,880,427
150.	FREMONT, CALIFORNIA	21,594,200	72,737,100	53,691,300
151.	DULUTH, MINNESOTA	1,894,024	8,685,715	7,457,852
152.	CAMBRIDGE, MASS	3,760,947	7,581,060	5,673,011
153.	PARMA, OHIO	1,653,350	16,928,350	5,060,150
154.	ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN	5,931,764	15,354,177	18,151,959
155.	ORLANDO, FLORIDA	6,372,202	34,085,250	22,244,966
156.	DAVENPORT, IOWA	7,118,590	16,879,605	20,241,850
157.	WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS	29,355,614	57,962,511	21,354,168
158.	PUEBLO, COLORADO	5,821,614	20,266,528	14,022,008
159.	IRVING, TEXAS	5,224,621	30,601,419	21,010,059
160.	FALL RIVER, MASS	352,800	1,678,949	1,678,680
161.	DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA	1,354,733	28,004,454	18,185,203
162.	SUNNYVALE, CALIFORNIA	14,431,958	48,705,218	36,923,693
163.	WACO, TEXAS	5,767,113	39,847,221	17,410,828
164.	RACINE, WISCONSIN	2,546,933	7,421,946	5,271,783
165.	LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS	294,305	13,603,685	8,270,155
166.	HAYWARD, CALIFORNIA	6,710,408	31,689,902	31,877,093
167.	LAKEWOOD, COLORADO	6,860,598	30,799,052	25,580,282
168.	ROANOKE, VIRGINIA	927,921	7,936,152	11,392,263
169.	SAGINAW, MICHIGAN	365,039	2,639,699	7,868,227
170.	NORWALK, CALIFORNIA	722,100	2,834,450	5,110,770
171.	SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS	6,133,542	20,801,139	15,093,542
172.	UTICA, NEW YORK	4,350,903	4,956,412	3,173,470
173.	NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS	1,028,048	4,748,932	2,633,022
174.	ARLINGTON, TEXAS	22,609,970	102,695,717	114,855,571
175.	DECATUR, ILLINOIS	2,954,121	15,569,190	11,430,907
176.	LYNN, MASSACHUSETTS	1,062,805	3,059,026	3,281,776
177.	INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA	1,060,439	9,956,662	7,144,964
178.	ABILENE, TEXAS	5,847,685	28,214,761	38,098,647
179.	CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA	6,569,603	37,790,847	26,428,949
180.	PASADENA, TEXAS	5,242,779	23,850,633	33,195,614
181.	BROCKTON, MASSACHUSETTS	462,244	4,618,261	6,384,294
182.	BURBANK, CALIFORNIA	17,097,984	31,581,129	10,730,486
183.	SOMERVILLE, MASS	247,912	1,824,755	1,975,076
184.	DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA	1,822,105	8,888,367	9,637,832
185.	SANTA MONICA, CALIF	12,714,295	38,374,558	20,519,480
186.	ST. CLAIR SHORES, MICH	774,500	1,539,800	2,205,550
187.	QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS	437,296	1,901,356	2,616,693
188.	GREEN BAY, WISCONSIN	4,531,300	18,335,679	14,932,010
189.	MANCHESTER, N.H.	3,399,516	13,055,640	11,817,371
190.	SANTA CLARA, CALIF	7,547,721	45,661,848	44,514,318
191.	READING, PENNSYLVANIA	490,307	3,222,491	1,774,546
192.	POMONA, CALIFORNIA	13,403,157	40,577,799	18,630,656
193.	MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA	2,080,588	21,279,811	15,382,888
194.	WESTLAND, MICHIGAN	792,690	6,401,480	3,954,754
195.	SIOUX CITY, IOWA	5,394,025	14,954,143	6,261,033
196.	FULLERTON, CALIF	1,255,898	22,210,823	38,514,563
197.	NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK	369,245	3,507,672	44,522,095
198.	KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN	2,487,720	10,445,479	10,013,802
199.	ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN	923,245	5,068,380	2,681,475
200.	PONTIAC, MICHIGAN	1,726,933	37,820,011	5,455,189
TOTALS:	200 Largest Cities Listed Above	2,777,967,467	11,170,653,404	9,457,274,892

P = Preliminary
R = Revised